



SOUTH PARK INN, INC.

Programs for Homeless Men, Women and Children
Emergency Shelter • Transitional Living • Plimpton House

March 11, 2010

To: Senator Toni Harp, Representative John Geragosian and members of the Appropriations Committee

From: Brain Baker, Assistant Director, South Park Inn shelter

Subject: Deficit mitigation plan

I am writing you today on behalf of the South Park Inn shelter at 75 Main St in Hartford. I am here to set in the record our concerns over our future economic health and how that impacts on our services for the homeless. I would like to first thank the Legislator for the wonderful bipartisan effort during the recent towel drive here at the Capital. We are very happy to report that the shelter received over 400 towels during the drive and other in kind donations. This effort will go along way for us to meet our bottom line and help us to continue to serve the sheltered and unsheltered.

The South Park Inn has sheltered over 40,000 people since we opened in 1984. We serve 85 men, women and children in the shelter, 33 men in a transitional living program with an additional 33 men and women at Plimpton House in a twenty four hour supportive housing program for the chronically homeless.

Her are our concerns:

1. We have had a 1% average cost of living increase over the past twenty years. That means with over 40% percent of our funding coming from DSS we have been chronically under funded.
2. 60% of our money to operate the shelter comes from other sources which is primarily donations from individuals and corporate donors. Both funding streams are in jeopardy and unreliable.
3. As with Many nonprofits we have seen skyrocketing health insurance premiums this year. Our insurance premiums have increased by 23%. Sadly our staff salaries can hardly absorb these increases.
4. We have already received a SSBG funding reduction of 2.5% and plus a FY09 retroactive cut of 10% to emergency shelters.
5. Our overall costs continue to go up.

Please consider our concerns as we continue to host an unfunded outreach program and veteran drop in center along with unfunded HMIS state mandated reports. Please do not balance the budget on the backs of our safety net of services. The shelters spend \$31 dollars a head per night for food, social services, round the clock staff, medical services, laundry and other services. We are doing all we can with an ever increasing demand on services and can not afford any more cuts to our funding. Thank you for your time.